

Frequently Asked Questions on Assessment Accommodations

Q: Can a student use Dragon Dictate on the Dakota STEP if it is an accommodation they usually use?

A: Various states have utilized communication boards. Dragon Dictate has been utilized for items such as writing or SAT 10 multiple choice questions. For the Dragon Dictate, if you use it for text to speech for reading comprehension, it will change the "construct" being measured which would basically invalidate the results for that subtest.

Q: Can a student use Dragon Naturally Speaking on the Dakota STEP if it is an accommodation they use daily?

A: Dragon Naturally Speaking can be utilized the same as Dragon Dictate. Kurzweil readers could be utilized provided they are not utilized to read the reading passages, since that would compromise comprehension and it should not be utilized for any SAT10 items which were omitted for Braille.

Q: Can a student use a multiplication chart on the Dakota STEP?

A: As long as their use is listed on the child's IEP.

Q: If the student reads the Reading Comprehension part of the test can the teacher read the question to the student?

A: Letting the students read the passages and then have the teachers read the questions would be okay if it is listed in the child's IEP and it is similar to what has been done in the past in the classroom.